

Appendix table 7-22.

Public preferences for level of Federal Government spending: 2001
(Percentages)

Characteristic	Exploring space	Reducing pollution	Improving health care	Supporting scientific research	Improving education	Helping older people	Improving national defense	Helping low-income people
All adults								
Too little	11	63	70	36	76	73	29	53
About right	38	28	24	44	17	21	41	30
Too much	48	6	4	14	5	3	25	15
Do not know	3	3	2	7	1	2	4	2
Male								
Too little.....	16	62	63	40	72	68	33	51
About right	39	29	31	44	20	25	40	31
Too much	43	7	5	12	7	5	25	16
Do not know	2	1	1	5	1	1	2	2
Female								
Too little.....	7	64	77	33	80	78	26	55
About right	36	27	18	44	15	18	42	28
Too much	53	4	3	16	4	1	26	14
Do not know	4	4	2	8	1	3	6	2
Less than high school graduate								
Too little.....	8	61	66	35	69	81	27	68
About right	24	28	29	34	21	13	37	18
Too much	65	9	4	26	8	4	29	11
Do not know	4	2	1	5	2	2	7	3
High school graduate								
Too little.....	11	64	73	34	79	76	32	54
About right	37	28	21	46	16	20	42	29
Too much	50	5	4	14	4	3	22	16
Do not know	2	2	2	6	1	1	4	1
Baccalaureate and higher								
Too little.....	16	63	64	42	74	62	24	41
About right	50	29	28	45	18	31	43	39
Too much	31	5	5	5	7	3	31	17
Do not know	3	3	3	8	1	3	2	3
Attentive public to science and technology^a								
Too little.....	28	70	66	52	74	69	33	59
About right	40	26	31	37	16	26	37	23
Too much	31	3	2	9	7	3	29	17
Do not know	1	1	1	2	3	3	1	1

^aTo be classified as attentive to a given policy area, an individual must indicate that he or she is "very interested" in that issue, is "very well informed" about it, and a regular reader of a daily newspaper or relevant national magazine. Individuals who report that they are "very interested" in an issue area but do not think that they are "very well informed" about it are classified as the "interested public." All other individuals are classified as members of the "residual public" for that issue. The attentive public for science and technology combines the attentive public for new scientific discoveries and the attentive public for new inventions and technologies. Any individual who is not attentive to either of those issues but who is a member of the interested public for at least one of those issues is classified as a member of the interested public for science and technology. All other individuals are classified as members of the residual public for science and technology.

NOTE: Responses are to the following statement: We are faced with many problems in this country. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one, I'd like you to tell me if you think that the government is spending too little money on it, about the right amount, or too much.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics (NSF/SRS), NSF Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, various years.

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